

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

Former MBCB director Kelly dies

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — Ernest Earl Kelly Jr., 90, longtime Mississippi pastor and retired executive director-treasurer of the



KELLY

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), died November 21. His pastorates included Ridgecrest Church (1967-72), located in Jackson at the time and since relocated to Madison; First Church, Holly Springs (1953-67); and Sand Creek Church, Greenburg, In. (1947-53). In 1972, he was elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to the post of executive director-treasurer, where he served until his retirement in 1989.

"Just before Thanksgiving week, I received word that Dr. Earl Kelly, a longtime executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, had died. At 90 years of age, he had lived a full and meaningful life, but he did not just fill time. He filled the time with meaning and purpose as he served our wonderful Lord," said Jim Futral, current MBCB executive director.

"In one of my last personal conversations with Dr. Kelly as his health seemed to be waning, I asked him what he was doing these days. He said, 'Jim, I spend a lot of my time preparing for final exams.' He felt that soon he would be before his Lord. The reality is that he spent the bulk of his life serving Jesus, seeking to do His will and to point people to His saving grace. Because of our Lord, he was ready for final exams.

"In 2013, we lost both of our former executive director-treasurers of Mississippi Baptists. Dr. Earl Kelly and Dr. Bill Causey were two great men. They had served the Lord long and faithfully as pastors, and then they were called on by their peers to lead our state. Now their life's work is done, and they live in joy in the presence of Jesus. It was my privilege to

see KELLY on p. 7

#becauseyoutgive

TOTALLY HIS
HEART, HANDS, VOICE

Matthew 22:36-39

imb
International Mission Board

Lottie Moon
Christmas
Offering
National Goal: \$175 Million

OUR CHURCH GOAL:

Missionaries become 'Totally His'



OPEN TO GOSPEL — Burmese immigrant workers sort the catch of the day at a large fish market in Ranong, Thailand. Baptists are reaching out to meet physical needs through water filtration projects that help give clean drinking water. (IMB photo)

Burmese immigrants touched by Baptists

RANONG, Thailand (BP) — It rains eight months out of the year in the Thai province Scott and Alyssa Branding (not their real names) call home. For many of the country's 2.5 million Burmese living in the southern part of Thailand, monsoon rain is their only dependable water source.

Drinking the rainwater can make them sick, so the Brandings give them small clay water pots lined with rice husks to filter impurities from the rainwater. Then they tell them about Jesus,

the source of living water (John 4:13-14).

The Brandings, from Calvary Church in Maysville, Ky., have been sharing the Gospel with Burmese migrant workers for more than 10 years. Many of the migrant workers live in remote areas without electricity or running water. They work on rubber and palm oil plantations or are undocumented immigrants living in the jungle to avoid detection by local immigration police.

see IMMIGRANTS on p. 6

Church planter buoyed by support from home

SOUTH ASIA (BP) — There was little in life to predict that Cebrián Bolívar (not his real name) would one day become a missionary in one of South Asia's most populated cities. He grew up on a farm high in South America's Andes Mountains where his parents and siblings still scratch a living from the soil.

That was before he met Sam Cordell (not his real name), a Southern Baptist missionary with a plan. In less than a decade Cordell trained a cadre of 200 Quichua Indian believers to range the scattered mountain villages of their people, planting churches.

Bolívar was one of the best. He planted 26 churches.

When Cordell announced he was leaving South America for Asia, Bolívar was one of several who asked if they could go with him. Cordell agreed, but warned that it wouldn't be easy.

Life is hard in the high Andes. Farmers earn little more than enough to survive. There is not a lot left over to support someone on the mission field. Of his father's 10 children, Bolívar was the one his parents thought most likely to stay home to take over the farm and care for them in their old age.

When the idea of Bolívar serving in Asia came up, his parents were against it. One day

see PLANTER on p. 6



LONELY TIMES — Cebrián Bolívar (not his real name) is a church planter in South Asia, far removed from his home in the Andes Mountains of South America. (IMB photo)

Inside

Directions	4
Sunday School lessons	7
Editorial	2
Biblioclips	5
How to Be a Christian	6
Revivals & Homecoming	6
Just for the Record	4, 8
Classifieds	5

DEC 13 2013



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

A symbol of our own

Symbols are powerful objects to people, and always have been. From the beginnings of human history when people piled stones one upon the other to mark significant places and events, to the Colossus of Rhodes, to the World Trade Towers, symbols compel us to remember the past, move us to action in the present, and give us hope for a bright future.

Great movements have almost always included important symbols. Who can forget Lady Liberty in Tiananmen Square, or our own Statue of Liberty on which Lady Liberty was based? The Great Seal of the United States, with its bald eagle clutching among its talons both arrows for war and olive branches for peace, is recognized all over the world. (A trivia question: In which direction does the eagle's head face? Answer: To the right toward the olive branches, to symbolize the nation's preference for peace.)

Symbols have of course been misused through the ages, too. The swastika, for over 3,000 years the symbol of good luck in many cultures around the world, was adopted by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party in the 1930s to capture the essence of their ruinous march toward war and mass murder. It has never recovered its original meaning.

Christians have their symbols, too, the most consequential being the cross upon which our Lord and Savior died to save each one of us. Scholars and other folks have argued for many years (and continue to do so) over the exact composition and configuration of the cross, but its influence and meaning to billions of people over the past 2,000 years is not arguable.

If Southern Baptists have a symbol to call our own, it would be the image of Lottie Moon and the ideals she embodied. One of the first Southern Baptist missionaries to be commissioned to China in 1873, her passion for helping bring lost souls to salvation in that country is legendary even to non-Southern Baptist Christians.

Lottie lived among the Chinese people for 40 years. She was known far and wide, by both friend and foe alike, as the Heavenly Book Visitor because of her unshakable faith in and firm reliance upon the Bible. She loved the Chinese people with all her heart — especially the women and children.

She loved them so much that, when the time came, she was willing to lay down her life for them. Famine came to China, and she was so committed to the people that she gave away all her money and food so others could eat.

Finally, on a ship in the harbor of Kobe, Japan, that was returning her to America, she died of malnutrition on Christmas Eve of 1912. She weighed 50 pounds.

The world little noted her life and passing, but Southern Baptists have never forgotten her. Her spiritual passion and personal sacrifice for the cause of Christ has come to symbolize our dedication to helping fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Her selflessness epitomizes for us

the image of Christ in ourselves, and calls us to be as single-minded as Lottie when it comes to the prospect of helping to bring the world to Jesus.

It is fitting that Lottie Moon has become such a powerful symbol for Southern Baptists. She dedicated her life to others and eventually died for them. How much closer to the model of Jesus could any one of us get?

As the December emphasis for this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions kicks into high gear and we all seek the Lord's guidance on the amount we will give, know that every penny of the offering goes directly to the field to support the Southern Baptists who are there, just as Lottie was there all those many years ago. Let us hold high the symbol of Lottie not only as we give of our resources, but as we also give of our lives to help save the world.

Most importantly, let us hold Jesus Christ highest of all. Lottie wouldn't want it any other way.



TOTALLY HIS

HEART, HANDS, VOICE

Matthew 22:36-39

'Totally His!' means just that

Years ago in my wife's home church, the pastor received an unusual call on Sunday afternoon from the chairman of the church's finance committee.

That morning, the church had begun collecting its annual Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. As they were tallying the results in order to give a report that evening, the committee found an interesting response in one envelope.

The envelope had been turned inside out, and the names of a couple from the congregation were printed inside. Wanting to ensure that an offering had not fallen out, the chairman asked the pastor to phone the couple and explain the situation.

"Yes, that was our offering," said the husband when the pastor called, "and we meant it."

When asked by the pastor what they meant, the husband responded, "We couldn't think of anything better to give the Lord than ourselves. This is our decision to surrender everything to the Lord."

Totally His! Now that is the kind of commitment Christ expects, honors, and blesses! Once it is settled that we are His heart, hands, voice, the Lord then moves us into places of incredible effectiveness.

Paul commended the churches of Macedonia by saying that in spite of their affliction and deep poverty, they were noted for their generosity. "For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord," he wrote to the believers in Corinth.

How were these churches able to give so generously? "They first gave themselves to the Lord," Paul continued. In other words, their remarkable generosity sprang from hearts that were totally His!

During this year's Lottie Moon Offering emphasis, you will have the opportunity to hear about individuals from around the globe who have determined that Christ is worthy of their all. They are working togeth-



Guest opinion
with Tom Elliff

er with Southern Baptist churches right here at home. God is using their combined efforts in some of the darkest corners of the globe. Together they are touching others with the Gospel in remarkable ways.

The International Mission Board's role is to assist you and your church in the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). When you give generously to the Lottie Moon Offering, you are ensuring that you have people on the ground in some of the most broken and lost communities of the world. These are missionary personnel you have placed in position there to assist your church in fulfilling its mission.

As you prayerfully consider giving your support to this global effort, a picture will unfold portraying what it means to be Totally His. Please join in praying that this year's emphasis will be, first and foremost, about offering ourselves to the Lord in total commitment and once that is in place, the stage is set for an offering that reflects the kind of generosity only God inspires.

Totally His! That should be our goal at any season of the year!

Elliff is a former missionary and current president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Richmond, Va. To view a related video, visit <http://vimeo.com/70780511>.

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Church achieves dream of engaging, adopting unreached people group

MANTECA, Ca. (IMB) — For an outsider looking in at Sequoia Heights Church in Manteca, Ca., it would be hard not to ask the question, "Who are the Kisi?"

Signs in each hallway and bathroom implore members to "pray for the Kisi." The church website prominently features the Kisi people, Photos and prayer guides are on many members' refrigerators and bedside tables.

In services, church members pray for the Kisi and speak of Kisi individuals by name. It is evident that the Kisi are deeply embedded in the hearts of the church members.

Why? Because the members of this small church have committed to bringing the light of salvation into the spiritual darkness that surrounds the Kisi people.

In the spring of 2011, pastor Mark Mahaffie returned from a missions conference thinking it was time for his church to take the next step in missions. He then read David Platt's book, *Radical*, and felt God's call confirmed.

He presented the idea of people group engagement to the congregation and, after praying, the church supported the idea with a unanimous vote of approval.

Once a decision was made, the church connected with the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention to learn more about choosing a people group and the process of engagement.

The IMB website, embrace.imbresources.org, shows a map of the nearly 3,000 people groups around the world that are less than two percent Christian with no known evangelism occurring among them.

"The goal is to connect with them emotionally and spiritually so that we can share the most important thing... the love of Jesus Christ," explained Donnie Land, a member of the church's missions team.

The church chose Acts 1:8 as their missions verse, and started thinking about how they could obey that specific command from God. "The Scripture says to go... to the ends of the earth," said Mahaffie. "We looked at that list [of 3,000 people groups] and said, 'God, what do you want us to do? We're caught. We don't have a clue.'"

The church began by looking at their history and the direction God had been leading them up to that point. They saw trends that indicated Africa, which helped them to eventually settle on Tanzania where one of their church members was serving as a missionary.

That decision narrowed their list of people groups significantly, and they prayerfully moved from a list of 30, to seven, to three and then one. Ultimately God sent the church to the Kisi people of southern Tanzania.

Choosing the Kisi was an exciting step that spurred the California church to a year of prayer, research, and planning. The whole church is working together to obey God's command to reach the Kisi for Him.

"It is important to have the whole church behind the mission," said Carol Jones (not her real name), an IMB mis-

sionary who helps train and facilitate churches working with sub-Saharan African people groups. "They need a lot of people involved: praying, giving, going."

Engaging a people group does not work as a project championed only by a church's leaders or a specific Sunday School class. As leaders change, engagement with a people group can be threatened.

"In 3 John, we read that we should send them out in a manner worthy of the Gospel," said Jones. "I don't know what all that might have entailed in the first century, but to me it means a great deal of prayer support as well as financial support. Some people can't go because of health reasons, but they can all pray. They can all give something."

Carol's husband Daniel (not his real name) is an affinity research strategist responsible for researching people groups and making sure they are engaged. Southern Baptists' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program enable the Joneses to help churches like Sequoia Heights follow God's call to engage unreached people groups.

At Sequoia Heights Church, people from different ages and skill groups stepped up to work on funding, plans, research, record keeping, training, and constant prayer.

"I think our church feels very much like a team," said pastor's wife Lanell Mahaffie. "Everybody is not going to go [to Tanzania] and everybody is not going to stay home, but we do feel united in what we're doing."

Carmen Baugh volunteered to help the church with one of the more worrisome parts of their planning: the finances. Initial calculations showed that for their church to send three teams a year they would need to raise roughly \$36,000 on top of their normal budget. That amounts to \$700 a week beyond normal tithing.

"We figured we can't do 500 carwashes or anything like that because there's just no way to earn that amount," said Baugh. "So, we prayed about it and did a pledge drive."

With roughly 200 members, the church knew the project could not be funded without serious help from the Lord. The ministry has been funded for over a year now, and the congregation sees their financial success as evidence of God's blessing on their work.

Church members say again and again that their international missions efforts will not succeed without first being rooted in prayer. John Garza took charge of the prayer efforts for the Kisi and leads the church in around-the-clock prayer coverage each time a team goes out to the Kisi.

From the time team members arrive on Tanzanian soil until they're safely back on a plane to the U.S., a member of the church body is lifting them up to the Lord, asking for their safety and the wisdom to act according to God's will.

"I strongly believe that as Christ died on the cross, He bridged the gap so now



TOTALLY HIS
HEART. HANDS. VOICE.

READY TO SERVE — Dan Mahaffie (left), pastor of Sequoia Heights Church in Manteca, Ca., travels by boat to Lupunga, Tanzania, to visit the Kisi people for the first time. His church committed to make three trips a year to share the Gospel among this unreached people group. (IMB photo)



SKETCHING GOOD NEWS — On a mission trip to the Kisi of Tanzania, Donnie Land, a member of the Sequoia Heights Church missions team from Manteca, Ca., explains the Gospel message using an illustration he draws in the dirt. Land's church prayed for an opportunity to minister to an unreached people group somewhere in the world, and were led by the Lord to the Kisi people. (IMB photo)

we can intercede for the Kisi people," said Garza.

Sequoia Heights Church has been among the Kisi six times so far. Eleven of their members have set foot in Kisi villages, but the entire church has taken part in the ministry.

A lot of time is put into awareness meetings, events, and lectures that update the members who are unable to participate outside of Manteca. The church held a Kisi Month where they decorated the entire church building in an African style and spent time praying for, learning about, and planning their ministry to the Kisi.

In addition, the youth engaged in missions training and spent over a month learning about witnessing and how to use it in their lives as well as among the Kisi. Children and teenagers are encouraged to pray and sacrifice financially for the project just as the adult members do.

Leaders hope that some of the youth

will be able to go on one of the missions to Lupunga. They are eager to model God's use of all ages in His work.

As the congregation becomes more and more involved with the Kisi people, their enthusiasm grows. "It's unbelievable that God is allowing us to do this," said Mahaffie, "and it's all because... we say 'yes' to the Lord with no exceptions. He has blessed that."

"Don't say 'no' before you say 'yes,'" the pastor urged. "Start with saying 'yes' and let God take care of all of the 'no's' that are in our lives. It's inconvenient. It's too far. I don't have a passport. I don't have any money."

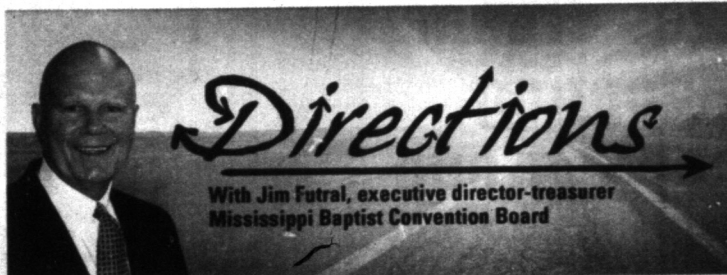
"All of those no's are just saying, 'I don't trust God.' The greatest adventure of your life is just about ready to start if you will say 'yes.'"

For information on how churches can help get the Gospel to unengaged people groups, visit call2embrace.org.

It would not be shocking at all if every one of us could think of one lady who has made a difference in our lives. She may be called Mom. It could have been a teacher or possibly a wife. For some, she could have been the Sunday School worker. For others she may have been a doctor, a nurse, a coach or a friend. The Bible is filled with ladies who made a difference in their world and certainly in the Kingdom of God. You are aware of most of their names and some of their incredible stories of grace, faith and leadership. There are women like Jochebed, Miriam, Deborah, Vashti, Esther, Ruth, Elizabeth, Lois, Eunice, and, of course, Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus. Probably, I should say, in a larger sense, the Mary's that are sprinkled throughout the New Testament who joined this long line of great women who have made a difference in the work of the Kingdom of God that will last for eternity.

This time of the year all across the Southern Baptist Convention, our attention turns to a world in need of Jesus and our call to be involved in missions that will carry this message to every corner of our world. Our focus on the world today is sharpened because of the work, commitment, and sacrificial love exhibited by one woman over 100 years ago. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is the largest, single mission effort to tell the world about Jesus by evangelicals every year.

This year the goal is \$175 million. Your immediate response may be something like, "Well, what I am able to give really will not make any difference at all." If so, you would be very wrong. I think of one young lady who almost 150



One Lady Makes a Difference

years ago was struggling with her call from God to go and be a missionary. How could that be possible and how could her one life make any difference in a world of so many then and even more now? Yet, that young woman whose name was actually Charlotte Diggs Moon said, "Lord, I will go!"

For 40 years she served and shared the saving power of Jesus. The challenges would be many and the sacrifices would be even more, but the harvest would be great and the impact of her love and care would challenge each of us to this very day. One lady makes a difference. Does one person make a difference today? Absolutely! As with Lottie, it makes a difference in the person's life who is obedient to the Lord. When that takes place it makes a difference in an ever growing circle of friends and influence that are affected by that dedication.

At the time, Lottie Moon was only

one of a handful of missionaries who Baptists were sending to places around the world. Today there are almost 5,000 missionaries that God has called, gifted, and sent out from our Baptist family. You and I have the privilege of being the support mechanism so that they can go and serve and to help those who are waiting now to go to join this ever increasing voice of God's people telling the world about Jesus. Lottie would write often to friends and family at home to explain the work that she was doing and the great need that was there in China. She would very directly ask them to do several things.

If she were alive and serving today, she would no doubt do the same thing and say to you and to me above all, please pray. Pray for the missionaries. Pray for those who are being told the story of Jesus for the first time. Pray that their hearts will be re-

ceptive. Pray that the power of God will touch them and that their understanding will be clear of how much Jesus loved them and came and died for their sins. Pray that this great work of God that we have the privilege of being a part of will continue to expand so that there will not be a place, a people group, or a person who does not have the opportunity to hear of the saving name of Jesus.

Secondly, Lottie would often encourage believers to be a part of the mission effort. In her day, the light of the Gospel was desperately needed in a dark world. Today the need is even greater. What can you do to honor Jesus and to bless a world that is in need of His saving power? You can give and it will be used directly to carry out His mission. Sometimes we look at a goal whether it is in our church or the national goal, and we somewhat give for the goal. While that may be fine, a greater goal is to give because we have been given. Do not give to reach a goal but give to reach a world that is in need of Jesus.

One other thing that Lottie Moon often encouraged others to do is related to the personal call that may come to an individual's life from the Lord to do what He wants us to do. Maybe He is calling you and your family to the mission field. The Lord is not just calling other people. He may be calling you. If He is, today is the day to answer Him and say, "Yes, Lord." One lady makes a difference, and you and I can be difference makers also.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Just for the Record



NEW PROSPECT CHURCH, OXFORD, ordained Mike Vanderlip to the gospel ministry Nov. 10. Shown are Chase Owen, Vanderlip, and Jay Parks.



Seventeen women from **GRANDVIEW CHURCH, PEARL**, made Christmas wreaths. Carla Nations taught the class.



FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, MCCOMB, recognized L.D. White for 62 years service as deacon Nov. 24. Shown are Zach Smith, Hazel White, White, and James Earl White.



The Mission Friends of **FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, recently participated in a sock drive and donated the socks to a local nursing home. Jay Anderson, pastor.

In other Church News:

➤ Frank H. Thomas, Jr., pastor, **Alta Woods Church, Jackson**, is retiring Dec. 31. He will be recognized Dec. 29 with a covered dish luncheon following the morning worship service Dec. 29. Jim Futral, speaker.

➤ **Coldwater Church, Philadelphia**, will host the One Way Quartet Jan. 4, 6 p.m. Love offering.

➤ The Northeast Mississippi Pastors' Conference will be Dec. 9, **First Church, Baldwin**. Tommy Vinson and Rex Yancey, speakers.

➤ Rusty Kuhn, pastor, **New Life Church, Nicholson**, has

written a book, *Reclaiming the Land: God's Formula for Revival*, based on 2 Chronicles 7:14. For more information, visit www.reclaimingtheland.com.

➤ **First Church, Terry**, exceeded its \$2500 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions goal by collecting \$2801.

➤ **Bethesda Church, Terry**, will present Mary, Did You Know?, a Christmas cantata, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

➤ **First Church, Crystal Springs**, will host a retirement celebration for James Beasley, minister of music for 40 years, 10 a.m.-noon on Dec. 15. A reception will follow from 2-4 p.m. at the church. Beasley will lead his final cantata as minister of music, beginning at 6 p.m.



GRACE CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, recognized George and Benja Sciple for one year perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown are the Sciples and Tony and Vickie Sharp.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 5, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Funding International Missions



- Your church decides how much of the money members give will be used to your state and mission for and through the SBC Cooperative Program.
- State convention meetings vote on what percentage of those funds stay in the state and what percentage is forwarded to the Cooperative Program.
- Slightly more than half of those Cooperative Program funds go to other cooperating SBC entities (local, regional, and national) and the remainder goes to other SBC entities.
- Every penny your church gives to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering directly funds your SBC missionaries as they work to bring unevangelized people to Christ.
- More than half of the IMB's total budget comes from Lottie Moon gifts.

World Missions is Lottie Moon and so much more!

See your CP dollars at work in the chart above.

For more information, contact the

Stewardship/CP Promotion Department at 601-292-3347.

YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

FOCUSED & READY

HEBREWS 12:1-2

Speaker:
Ed Newton

Worship:
Bethany Barr Phillips

Illusionist:
Brock Gill

DECEMBER 30-31, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.
REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY, DEC. 30, AT 1:30 P.M.
CHALLENGE CONCLUDES AT 12:30 P.M. DEC. 31

OH GOD,
BURDEN MY HEART
FOR PEOPLE AND
GIVE ME A BOLDNESS
TO TELL THEM
ABOUT
YOU. AMEN.

2014 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 26-27, 2014

Northcrest
Baptist Church,
Meridian



Jim Futral



Kevin Hamm



Johnny Hunt



Jeff LaBorg



Fred Luter



Bob Pitman



Don Wilton

Sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Contact us at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 278.

2014 DIARY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT CALENDAR

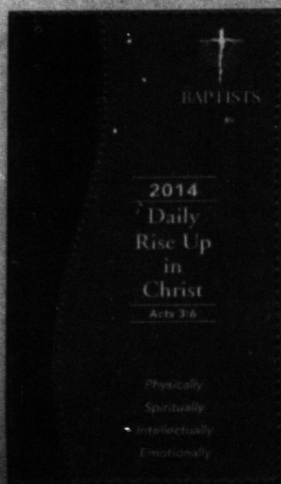
DAILY RISE UP IN CHRIST!

Discover daily listings of activities and scriptures in the 2014 Diary to develop your:

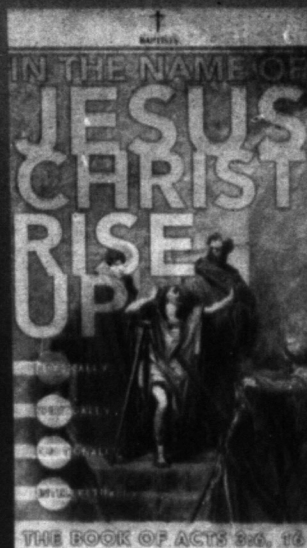
- Physical Health
- Spiritual Health
- Intellectual Health
- Emotional Health

Enjoy a year of being
alive and well in Christ!

Churches can provide calendars for their church for \$1.50 each (includes a sticker & magnet) by contacting MBCB - Church Growth to place an order:
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
E-mail: cbell@mccb.org
Phone: 601-292-3310
FAX: 601-714-7424



HEALTH CONFERENCES



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:
Church Growth Dept.,
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
E-mail: cbell@mccb.org
Phone: 601-292-3310
FAX: 601-714-7424

Plan to bring people from your church and community to participate in one of the health conferences planned throughout Mississippi.

Congregational Praise
Slater Murphy, MBCB

Theme Interpretation/Introduction
Steve Stone, MBCB

Spiritual/Intellectual Health
Jim Futral, MBCB

Physical Health / DVD
Baptist Health Systems

Emotional Health
Ron Mumbower, FBC, Jackson

Featured Speaker
(see listing for each conference)

January 17, 2014
6-8:45 PM
Main Street BC, Hattiesburg
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

January 24, 2014
6-8:45 PM
Hattiesburg BC, Tupelo
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

January 31, 2014
6-8:45 PM
FBC, Louisville
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

February 7, 2014
6-8:45 PM
FBC, Grenada
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

February 28, 2014
6-8:45 PM
FBC, Jackson
Featured Speaker: Jani Enrickson Tada

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1
CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

2014 single-parent retreat

for parents &
children (ages 6-10)
free day care provided for 5 & under

For more information contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at:
1-800-748-1651, ext. 284,
or 601-292-3284
or dbrashier@mccb.org

2014 10TH ANNUAL Senior EVANGELISM RALLY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014

NORTHCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN
(601-482-3498)

8:00 a.m. Registration/Refreshments

8:15 Early Bird Special

"Putting wit back into witnessing"

Jerry Mison, Madison

8:45 General Assembly

9:00 Break-outs

Aging Faithfully in Evangelism

Missy Buchanan, Rockwell, TX; Auditor & Special T

Living in the Spirit

Mervin Pongler, MBCB

Putting the Wit Back into Evangelism

Jerry Mison, Madison

Shaping up to Share the Gospel

Lisa Leavelle, MBCB

10:00 Break

(Refreshments provided by MS Baptist Foundation)

10:45 Worship Celebration Rally

Music - Happiness Is

Senior Choir, FBC, Raleigh

Preacher - Dr. Fred Wolfe, Mobile, AL

11:45 Adjourn

For more information contact the Discipleship/Family
Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention
Board at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284.

2014 Mississippi Baptist & Keyboard Festivals

COST: \$8 PER PERSON BY DECEMBER 9, 2013

REGISTER NOW FOR THE AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVAL NEAR YOU. VISIT
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FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION CONTACT THE CHURCH
MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF THE MBCB AT 601-292-3278.

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER PHONE
		C-Church, O-Office, H-Home
Thursday, January 23, 2014 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.		
Area 2	Harrisburg BC, 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd, Tupelo, 38801	Mignon Williamson C-662-842-6917 Cory Bolen
Area 2	FBC, 106 E. Lampton St, Starkville, 39759	Tom Jenkins C-662-323-5633
Area 3	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648	Josh Willis C-601-684-2971
Area 3	FBC, 431 N. State St., Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South O-601-292-3272 O-1-800-748-1651
Area 4	Poplar Springs Dr. BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian, 39306	Michael Gibson C-601-485-5106
Area 5	Petal-Harvey BC, 600 South Main St, Petal, 39465	Tim Moak C-601-583-1743
Area 5	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula, 39667	John White C-228-762-2343
Area 5	FBC, 607 W. 5th Ave., Laurel, 39440	Marilyn Huff H-601-783-8731
Friday, January 24, 2014 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.		
Area 2	Longview Heights BC, 4501 Goodman Rd., Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates Cell-662-404-3069
Saturday, January 25, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. - noon		
Area 1	Emmanuel BC, 245 Meadowbrook Rd, Grenada, 38901	Barry Worrell C-662-226-5316
Area 1	North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Ethridge C-662-453-2801

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March 29-30, 2014 - Wynndale Baptist Church, Terry**

Video Audition Deadline: November 15, 2013

No Audition Fee

Upon acceptance, Choir Member cost for weekend is \$70 (covers member meals, snacks, music, listening CD, Weekend DVD, concert polo shirt).

For more information:

http://www.mbeb.org/church_growth/em/honor_choir.aspx

**Contact: Wyndy South, 601-292-3272 locally
or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272, statewide
wsouth@mbeb.org**

Deacon Ministry

EMPHASIS 2014

January 5-11, 2014



Deacon Ministry Emphasis is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involve deacon training and service.

The Purpose of Deacon Emphasis is to:

- Focus on their biblical role
- Secure involvement in ministries
- Build team relationships
- Develop skills for ministry

For more information contact the Pastor/Leadership

Development Dept. of the MBCB at 1-800-748-1651,

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sluttrell@mbeb.org.

WITNESSING THROUGH MEDIA CONFERENCE DATES & INFORMATION 2014

Witnessing Through Media (WTM) Awards Competition

The WTM Awards Competition has been created to recognize and honor individuals and churches who have produced outstanding media projects in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, and church growth. The competition is open to all churches and individuals who are members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

DEADLINE FOR AWARDS COMPETITION: March 7, 2014

April 25-26, 2014

Witnessing Through Media Conference

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 11, 2014

2014 OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**JANUARY
DEACON EMPHASIS**
(also can be held anytime)

**MARCH 1
PASTORS' WORKSHOP**
"Sustaining the Faith"
Place: First Baptist Church, Starkville

**MARCH 18
CHURCH BUILDING CONFERENCE/LIFEWAY
CHURCH ARCHITECTURE**
Place: Skyroom, Baptist Building

**APRIL 7-8
STATE MINISTRY ASSISTANTS' CONFERENCE**
Place: Garymire Center, Jackson, MS

**APRIL 13
LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

**MAY 19-21
STATE PREACHING CONFERENCE**
"Faith: Rise Up & Preach"

**AUGUST 19-21
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND
OFFICE SKILLSHIPS FOR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS**

CHURCH-RELATED VOCATIONS BANQUET
September 15, William Carey University
September 18, Blue Mountain College
October 23, Mississippi College

**SEPTEMBER 25
PASTORS' WORKSHOP**
"Sustaining the Faith"

**OCTOBER 14
STUDENT DAY AT THE BAPTIST BUILDING**

**OCTOBER 27
MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE**

**OCTOBER 27
BIVOCATIONAL/SMALL CHURCH MINISTERS
& WIVES COUNCIL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 28
AMD/SEMINARY EXTENSION (SBC)
DIRECTORS BREAKFAST**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
CONFERENCES SPONSORED**

**BY THE
PASTOR/LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OF THE**

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
CONVENTION BOARD**

PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

1-800-748-1651

ext. 305

601-292-3226

Pray this day for...

December 6 - January 2, 2013

"None of the good promises the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled."

Joshua 21:45

Pray for a team of two from **River Bend BC, Aberdeen**, going to East Asia, December 2013.

Pray for: **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Sarah Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through mission support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for a team of six from the **Lauderdale Association, Marion**, going to Rome for evangelism, discipleship, & prayer walking.

Pray for: **John & Amy Puri**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through volunteer coordination, community outreach.

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Linda & Mike Ray**, missionaries to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Nickolee & Steven Roberts**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty & Suzanne Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Ruth & Steven Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Sharp**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting and regional office support.

Pray for: **Clay & Jeri Stegall**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Jeanette Taylor**, missionary ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples through regional office support.

Pray for: **Kari & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Shannon & Charlie Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Mark & Karen Alexander**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Arnold & Susie Austin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through community & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

2/23/06

MISS OLIVIA

Parents: Greg and Heather
American Peoples

2/2/07

MISS ALESSIA WORTHY

Parents: Charlie & Shannon
European Peoples

2/16/01

MR. HADDON BLEDSOE

Parents: David & Laurie
American Peoples

2/24/00

MR. NATHAN PEACOCK

Parents: Kevin & Brenda
European Peoples

Encourage an MK with a card!

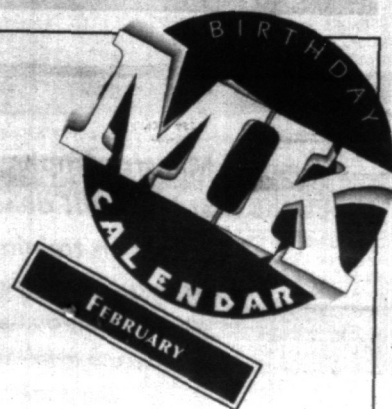
FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO
Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



HOUSE TOPS

BiBLiOciPHER

DTC MCR JHTYKHTC, IKLWRHTC VA

YKT, EYVIG VA MJHMKMD, MCR

QKVEVTPTH MDVCB NVO ATMHTYK

BVR, YV NVO LE YKT QVHR VA YKLE

EMWPMYLV C ETCY.

MIYE YKLHYTTC: YQTCYN-ELZ

Clue: L = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 10:4

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

College and Seminary News



James David Caves was recently awarded the Doctorate of Ministry degree. He also holds an M.Div. from **NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**, a M.Ed. and B.S.W. from Delta State University. He is the pastor of **TOOMSUBA BAPTIST CHURCH, LAUDERDALE ASSOCIATION**. Shown are Ralph Hinson, Caves, and Carless Evans, Jr.

PLANTER

cont. from p. 1

Bolívar asked his father, "If you have 10 sheep, how many belong to the Lord?"

"One," said his father. "And 10 chickens?" Bolívar asked.

"Again, one," answered his father.

"You have 10 children," Bolívar said. "Shouldn't one go to the Lord?"

In the end, Cebrián Bolívar's going to South Asia and working with Sam Cordell came down to the matter of a tithe, but the tithe was just the beginning. Cordell told him getting to South Asia wasn't going to be easy. First there was the matter of language, and then there was the matter of support.

Bolívar's first language is Quichua; his second is Spanish. It is not the Spanish of the classroom. It is the language of the street, and neither Spanish nor Quichua are of much use in South Asia.

In 2008, Bolívar began studying English through an Internet course. When he arrived in south Asia in 2011, he began the study of his fourth language — Hindi.

He used the years between to garner support he would need by speaking with churches and individuals up and down the Andes, sharing his passion for South Asian peoples and what it would take to get there.

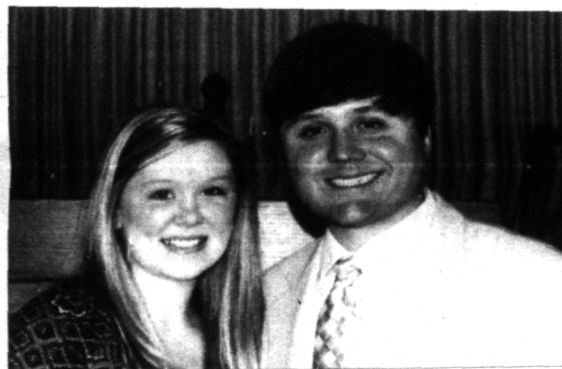
Now more than two years into his three-year commitment, 20 Quichua families set aside money from their meager earnings and send the funds needed to support Bolívar. None of them are wealthy. Only two families own a motorized vehicle. Yet they are faithful.

Bolívar, in turn, continues to grow in knowledge of his new land, its languages, and its customs. He has an affinity for students a bit younger than his 27 years. They are attracted to him and include him in their gatherings and outings. He has even traveled across the continent with a couple of them.

This year, Cordell and Bolívar saw the first one among those students make a commitment to Christ. Cordell says it's all part of the plan.

Cordell is serving in South Asia through Southern Baptists' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program, which fund the presence and missions outreach of nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries internationally.

Staff Changes



GOODWATER CHURCH, MEEHAN, has called Jeremy Clearman as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Amber.

MS POSITIONS

PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH. Send resumes to: Calvary Baptist Church, Attn: Youth Committee P.O. Box 86 Fulton, MS 38843

MONROE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR until December 15, 2013. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 540, Amory, MS 38821, Attn: Allen Simpson. Or email: allen@fbcamory.org. A job description is available by email.

WITH MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE AS PASTOR and having relocated to N. MS, I am now available for pastor, do interim work or pulpit supply. Call 662-350-3867.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN KOSCIUSKO, MS IS SEEKING 2 FULL TIME POSITIONS: A FULL TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER AND A FULL TIME YOUTH MINISTER.

Please send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, P O Box 70, Kosciusko, MS 39090

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MS 39180, IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ YOUTH DIRECTOR. Please send resume to 6949 Highway 61 S, or e-mail the church at ibc_secretary@bellsouth.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF COLDWATER IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH AND CHILDRENS MINISTER. Send resume to fbcoldwater@bellsouth.net or mail to P.O. Box 347, Coldwater, MS 38618

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IMMIGRANTS

cont. from p. 1

Families there build spirit houses in their yards, setting out food every day to appease spirits even when there is not enough food left to feed their families. Fear of angering spirits is so deep-seated that new Christians often do not immediately throw out their idols.

"When we go into a home and we see their altar being totally clean, we just praise God because we know they've made that final step. They have totally committed their whole selves to the Lord," Alyssa says.

When a small group of believers formed among the plantation workers, one of the first things for which they prayed was time each week to meet together, says the congregation's pastor Ye Htoelt. With no means of transportation, walking 10 kilometers (six-plus miles) or more to another plantation can take more than an hour each way.

Htoelt's hands are cracked and calloused from years of working on palm oil plantations. On the first plantation Htoelt worked in Thailand, there had been running water and electricity but the landowner was "wicked" and overworked his employees, Htoelt recalls.

He and his wife eventually found work at a different plantation. It didn't have running water or electricity, but the landowner was a believer. Not only did he give the couple Sundays off from work, he sent Htoelt home every Saturday afternoon so he could prepare to teach his small congregation the following day.

Htoelt was unsure he had the ability to lead the congregation, so Scott mentored and trained him in discipleship for two years. "[It is] such a joy now

to see him be able to share the Gospel and have confidence," Scott says. "When he starts speaking about the Bible, it's just like he comes alive and he just explodes with power... because the power of Jesus Christ [is] in him."

The Brandings, who live in an area surrounded by fish processing plants, also have helped start Bible studies among factory workers. Aung Kyaw (not his real name), a fish buyer whose work affords him the opportunity to interact with both Thais and Burmese, now relies on God instead of trying to appease spirits when business is bad.

"I have learned to have one thing in mind: Trust and believe in Christ alone," he says.

For WinWin Ma, a young woman who works in a squid processing plant, times of worship allow her to claim joy in life through Christ. She is the only Christian in her workroom of 30 laborers.

"I work 10 hours a day and sometimes face problems at work," she says, "but when I worship, the worry and stress fall away. I feel joy."

She also has learned the joy of giving what she can to help others in need. For the past two years, the small migrant congregation has hosted a Christmas program for AIDS patients in the community, says pastor Simon David, a Burmese immigrant Scott has mentored.

"We go and distribute everything from food, medicine and clothes. We also pray and have fellowship with them," David says. "I love that whenever there is someone in need of counseling or money, they want to give. They don't have much, but they love to give."

Migrant work by its nature is transitory. David tries to stay in contact with relocated workers, telling them, "Do not be afraid. Trust God all the time." He of-

ten calls ahead to help the family locate a new congregation. If there isn't one, he stresses the importance of the believers staying grounded in God's Word and sharing it with others.

Conversions can be especially difficult when family members don't share their faith. Alyssa tells about a pregnant woman whose husband wouldn't allow her to pray to God when she was sick. "When my husband saw me reading the Bible, it didn't please him at all," the woman told Alyssa. "He kicked me... and then took and burned my Bible. Yet I decide to cling to God."

Others are eager to hear God's Word. One day while walking along the docks to distribute rice and share the Gospel, Alyssa was invited into a small home. There, she was shown a newborn baby.

"Will you name the baby?" the strangers asked, much to Alyssa's surprise. Alyssa prayed for wisdom, looked at the infant and named him after the Bible's Joshua, a great warrior for the Lord. She prayed that this child, too, would be strong and courageous.

The family began attending church. This year, seven-year-old Joshua sang a Bible verse to the congregation.

The Brandings are serving in Thailand through Southern Baptists' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program, which fund the presence and missions outreach of nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries internationally.

"The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering helps us stay here, helps us be face-to-face, helps us to show compassion to people when they're hurting, helps us to be hands and feet when they need specific mentoring, when they need someone to pray for them," Scott says.

Revivals & Homecomings

► Bethlehem Church, Winona: Revival, Dec. 8 - 11; 7 p.m. nightly.

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Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Serve Humbly • John 13:12-15, 16-20, 33-35, 36-38

From The Message Bible in John 13:34-35 Jesus said "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other." What do people see when they look and see Christian love?

They see things like the leader of the group taking off their dress clothes, putting on a towel or an apron and washing the dirty feet of those who had walked with open sandals down hot dusty roads. How do we know what Christian love looks like? We read of Jesus, the Lord and Teacher washing the disciples' feet. The Rabbi washing the followers' feet was unheard of humility.

Jesus asked the disciples "Do you understand what I have done for you?" John 13:12 (NIV). This is His continuing teaching because He "knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father," John 13:1 (HCSB).

In verses 13 through 15 Jesus helps the disciples understand what He has just done when He washed their feet, like a house slave would normally do. Jesus affirmed what all of the disciples would have said. "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also

ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you," John 13:13-15 (KJV). John had reminded us of Jesus' eternal role as "Master and Lord" in verse three: "Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God," John 13:3 (The Message). Jesus was preparing to voluntarily lay down His life and that would be an even more humble act than washing hot, dirty feet.

It is one thing to understand Jesus' teaching: "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet," John 13:14 (HCSB). It is another thing to know and understand that this kind of teaching about humble service can only bring satisfaction when actually lived out. These are the words Jesus used to explain this principle of happiness and satisfaction: "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them," John 13:17 (HCSB).



Explore the Bible

with Don Hicks

Not even all of the disciples who had lived with Jesus daily for three years were ready to apply these teachings of their Lord. Jesus points to the Old Testament prophesy from Psalm 41:9 to help the disciples gain deeper spiritual understanding of what they are living through. Jesus spoke of Judas's treacherous plan when He said, "The one who eats

My bread has raised his heel against Me," John 13:18 (HCSB). This statement went right over the disciples' heads

and Jesus spoke more pointedly to help them understand.

"When Jesus had said this, He was troubled in His spirit and testified, 'I assure you: One of you will betray Me!' The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one He was speaking about," John 13:22 (HCSB).

Now Peter, being the natural leader of the Disciples, begins to try to figure this out. We see the dynamics of this group in

some very interesting ways. Peter signals to John, the disciple reclining close beside Jesus, for him to ask Jesus for more information. John never refers to himself by name but always as the disciple Jesus loved. Peter apparently accepted this special relationship between John and Jesus because he is taking advantage of it to ask Jesus this very important question.

Now Jesus answers Peter and John by referring to Psalm 41:9 again: "Jesus replied, 'He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it.' When He had dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son," John 13:26 (HCSB). None of the disciples but Judas understood this but Judas did and left immediately to carry out the betrayal. "And it was night," John 13:30 (HCSB).

And "When he (Judas) had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him,' John 13:31. . . . 'I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another,' John 13:34. (HCSB)

Hicks is a consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and a member of Brandon Church, Brandon.

The Gift You Can't Give Yourself • Romans 3:21-28

Charles Spurgeon, a British preacher mightily used of God during the 1800's, said: There is a little book entitled, Every man his own lawyer. Well, nowadays, according to some people, it seems as if every man is to be his own savior; but if I had, say, a dozen gospels, and I had to sort them out, and give the right gospel to the right man, what a fix I should be in! What a muddle it would all be! But now we have one universal cure...The blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ will save every man who trusts him, for there is no difference.

Under the Old Testament Law, righteousness came by man behaving, but under the gospel, righteousness comes by believing (Wiersbe). Though the law was holy and just and good, and revealed the righteousness of God, it could not make man righteous. Man at his best behavior could not perfectly keep the Law. He needed a Savior. Romans 3:21 announces the glad news that NOW, apart from the Law, the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the prophets (NASB).

God's righteousness is not offered to us as something to take up the slack between our ability to keep the law and God's perfect standard. It is not given to supplement our own righteousness. It is given completely

apart from our own attempted righteousness (David Guzik).

We as believers desperately need to understand the difference in our daily conduct on earth and the righteousness which we have been given. The righteousness of God is perfect and unchanging, yet we are full of change. Some days we live exemplary lives and feel quite pleased with our spiri-

tual progress. Then on other days, we may grieve the Holy Spirit by our actions and words. Even though we know that when this happens we can confess our sins and He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us, we sometimes distance ourselves from God in our shame. We somehow forget that God loves and accepts us not because of any good performance on our part, but because we as believers have been given the righteousness of Christ and stand complete in Him.

None of us can clear ourselves from the

guilt and sin and shame in our lives. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. When a sinner places his faith in the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, God gloriously and unconditionally—no strings attached—justifies him, counting him righteous in His sight. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12).

God does not bring up our past sins and failures. Let us be careful not to let the enemy of our soul torment us with re-

minders of past sins and failures. If the enemy should come knocking with condemnation over past sins, pull out your Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and tell him that according to Romans 3:24 you're no longer guilty of those things, because God has justified you freely by His grace through the redeeming work of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Christ is our propitiation or sacrifice of

atonement for our sins. God is justifiably angry at sinners. They have rebelled against Him and cut themselves off from His life-giving power. God declares Christ's death as the appropriate, designated sacrifice for our sins. He stands in our place, having paid the penalty of death for our sin and He completely satisfies God's demands. His sacrifice brings pardon, freedom and deliverance (Life Application Bible Commentary on Romans 3).

Here (at the cross) we learn that God designed to give the most evident displays of both his justice and mercy. Of his justice, in requiring a sacrifice, and absolutely refusing to give salvation to a lost world in any other way; and of his mercy, in providing THE sacrifice which His justice required (Adam Clarke).

Paul concludes that there is no room for boasting because we are not justified by the law or works. We are justified by faith in the shed blood of Jesus.

Free from the law—oh, happy condition! Jesus hath bled, and there is remission; Cursed by the law and bruised by the fall, Christ hath redeemed us once for all. (Philip P. Bliss)

Foster is a member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

Bible Studies for Life

with Patsy Foster



KELLY

cont. from p. 1

know, work with, and be blessed by both of them.

Dr. Earl Kelly and Dr. Bill Causey were very different in their personalities, backgrounds, and styles of leadership. Each was uniquely prepared to serve God and His people in special times

and settings but as should be, they shared an unshakable love and commitment to the living Christ. They were saved by, gifted by, and guided by Him. Now they are with Him! Futral said.

After retirement, Kelly joined the faculty of the Philippine Baptist Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines, as professor of church history, where he taught

for 3 years. Over the years he taught as a guest professor at Baptist seminaries in Limuru, Kenya, and in Liberia. He served on assignments in 15 Asian countries for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Richmond, Va. His ministry included preaching the Gospel on five continents in such notable

churches as First Baptist Church of Moscow, First Baptist Church of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, and The Baptist Cathedral in Estonia.

Kelly was born December 16, 1922, to Ernest and Lillian Kelly in rural Pontotoc County. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, as well as bachelor of divinity, master of

theology, and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He is survived by three children: Dana Earl Kelly (Lisa), Brian Leigh Kelly (Karen), and Amanda Kay Kelly, as well as seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter. A memorial service was held Nov. 25 at Northminster Church, Jackson.

Just for the Record



MACEDONIA CHURCH, LEE COUNTY, honored Billy Little and his wife Ann with a reception July 28. He has served in gospel music ministry for 65 years and retired from Macedonia with 19 years as full-time music director and four years as assistant music director.

PARKWAY CHURCH, PASCAGOULA, held a note burning Sept. 29 during a 5th Sunday Sing. Shown are Rudy Skinner, Johnny Nations, pastor Martin Britt, and Curtis Rinks.



MACEDONIA CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, ordained Greg Conlee as deacon. Shown are Penny and Greg Conlee and pastor Louie Williams.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, held their annual Family Christmas Celebration recently. Families brought Christmas ornaments for decorating the tree and had finger foods. The children presented a musical program. Danny Creel, music; Hal Hatten, pastor.

Evangelist James Messer

JAMES E. MESSER MINISTRIES

James Messer will celebrate 50 years of ministry in September 2014. He has preached in over 1,000 revivals and crusades. He also has served as pastor for 20 years and has a heart for pastors as well as the local church. James is a member FBC Tillman's Corner where Greg Pouncey is pastor. He is available for:

- Revivals • Senior Adult Meetings • Harvest Days
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